
CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit



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Suppression Repair Begins on the Briceburg Fire

Midpines - After the flames die and the firefighters return to their normal duties, a mountain of work remains behind.

Miles of dozer lines, hand lines, safety zones, staging areas and drop points have been built to support the fire suppression efforts, and now these areas need to be put back into a pre-fire condition.

The objective of the fire suppression repair is to place areas disturbed by fire suppression activities into a condition that will not negatively affect natural and cultural resources and will not contribute to excessive erosion on the landscape or sediment delivery to the watercourses.

Suppression repair reduces the potential for soil detachment and transport, protects natural and cultural resources from additional potential damage, reduces visual impacts of fire line, as well as other suppression activities and reduces potential use of fire lines as OHV routes.

Suppression repair includes installing water diversion features on fire control lines to prevent future erosion. Natural debris, like branches and brush, help blend these lines into the surroundings and unburned soils are put back into place to provide a seed bed for native plants to reestablish themselves.

Rehabilitation of the impacts caused by fire suppression is vital to the long-term health of the area. Without rehabilitation, these containment lines can cause erosion scars, mudslides and provide growing space for non-native species.

Much of the work is completed using the same crews and equipment that build the fire lines. Hand crews sometimes rehabilitate the same hand lines they constructed to battle the flames. Excavators and other heavy equipment add logs, boulders, water diversion bars and topsoil to larger disturbed areas.

In time, the land will recover and the burned area and suppression efforts will blend back into the natural landscape. OHV use is limited to designated travel routes.

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